

# STATE OF ALASKA

## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION OF MINING, LAND AND WATER

RESOURCE ASSESSMENT & DEVELOPMENT SECTION

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June 20, 2012

Re: Release of the Public Review Draft of the Yukon Tanana Area Plan and Public Comment Period

Dear Alaskan,

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has released the Public Review Draft of the **Yukon – Tanana Area Plan** (YTAP). DNR intends to adopt the YTAP and once adopted, this plan will serve as the basis for the management of state lands and waters within the planning area for the next 15 to 20 years. The plan includes a Land Classification Order (NC-10-005), affecting approximately 9,068,010 acres of state owned and state selected land, which classifies the land primarily for Agriculture, Coal, Forestry, Habitat, Minerals, Settlement, Water Resources and General Use. See the plan website for maps depicting the location of the planning area: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/planning/areaplans/ytap>.

The YTAP boundary contains over 9 million acres of state owned or selected land and includes: land located within the western portion of the existing Tanana Basin Area Plan boundary; previously un-classified state owned and selected land northwest of Fairbanks (near Rampart); and state owned and selected land within the Denali Borough. Most of this area is currently managed through the Tanana Basin Area Plan (1991) which is outdated and needs to be revised to account for changes in land ownership; to reflect the current and anticipated physical, economic, and social factors in the area; and, to provide a sufficient land-base for the development and conservation of the state's natural resources. Management direction provided in the YTAP will supersede management direction contained in the existing Tanana Basin Area Plan.

This plan will not affect borough, federal, Mental Health Trust, Municipal, University, Native, private, or other non-state lands and will not affect oil and gas lease sales or gas only lease sales.

The State would like your input on the YTAP Public Review Draft. To facilitate this, public meetings will be scheduled for August 2012, to provide information and to obtain your comments and recommendations. Representatives from DMLW will be present at these meetings. You are welcome to come to all meetings that are held. Your written comments are encouraged during this public comment period and must be submitted, in writing, on or before **August 31, 2012** by mail, email, fax, or through the YTAP website provided below. Comments may also be hand delivered until 5:00 PM, AST, August 31, 2012 to the address below. To review and download and electronic version of the PRD, including maps, or submit comments online please visit our website at: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/planning/areaplans/ytap/>. For additional information contact:

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***“To responsibly develop Alaska’s resources by making them available for maximum use and benefit consistent with the public interest.”***